Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A medical apparatus lease system comprising:

an input section for inputting information on a usage status of a <u>leased</u> medical apparatus;

a storage section for storing said information on said usage status of said <u>leased</u> medical apparatus as electronic data;

a transmission section for transmitting said electronic data on said usage status stored in said storage section;

a <u>lease</u> fee system holding system for holding <u>lease</u> fee systems that set lease fees for said <u>leased</u> medical apparatus;

a calculation section for calculating ~~the~~ <u>an</u> amount of lease fees for said <u>leased</u> medical apparatus by correlating said electronic data on said usage status to said <u>lease</u> fee systems held by said fee system holding system; and

a billing information creating section for creating billing information for charging the amount of lease fees calculated by said calculation section to a preset payer of the lease fees for said <u>leased</u> medical apparatus.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ <u>The</u> system according to claim 1, ~~further comprising a~~ <u>wherein said leased</u> medical apparatus ~~having~~ <u>has</u> a usage status storage section for storing information on said usage status as electronic data, wherein:

-2-

5   said input section inputs the information on the usage

status for the <u>leased</u> medical apparatus.

3.   (Currently Amended)   ~~A~~ <u>The</u> system according to claim 1,

further comprising a return section for returning status report

information ~~such as~~ <u>including</u> information on said amount of lease

fees ~~or other information, for example, an error status for~~

5   ~~errors in the medical apparatus,~~ from said calculation section to

said transmission section or said <u>leased</u> medical apparatus.

4. (Currently Amended)   ~~A~~ <u>The</u> system according to claim 1,

further comprising an authentication section for permitting only

a previously authenticated person to input or change client

information on a client using said medical apparatus lease system

5   and apparatus information on the client using said medical

apparatus lease system.

5.   (Currently Amended)   ~~A~~ <u>The</u> system according to claim 1,

wherein the lease fee system for said <u>leased</u> medical apparatus is

selected from <u>among:</u> a program for determining an amount due

depending on ~~the~~ <u>a</u> number of times that said <u>leased</u> medical

5   apparatus has been operated, a program for determining the amount

due depending on ~~the~~ <u>a</u> number of outputs from said <u>leased</u> medical

apparatus, a program for determining the amount due depending on

-3-

an amount of time for which said <u>leased</u> medical apparatus has

been operated or leased, and a program for determining the amount

10   due depending on ~~the~~ <u>an</u> amount of energy used by said <u>leased</u>

medical apparatus.

6.   (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ <u>The</u> system according to claim ~~1~~ <u>5,</u>

further comprising a program used with said programs for said

lease fee system for said <u>leased</u> medical apparatus to prohibit an

increase in ~~the~~ fees when said <u>leased</u> medical apparatus is

5   tentatively used to check its operation or functioning.

7.   (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ <u>The</u> system according to claim 1<u>,</u>

further comprising a computation section for computing an

experience on usage of said <u>leased</u> medical apparatus and an

output section for outputting the computed experience data.

8.   (Currently Amended) A medical apparatus lease method

comprising:

      ~~an input step of~~ inputting information on a usage status of

a <u>leased</u> medical apparatus;

5   ~~a storage step of~~ storing said information on said usage

status of said <u>leased</u> medical apparatus as electronic data;

      ~~a transmission step of~~ transmitting said stored electronic

data on said usage status;

-4-

a calculation step of calculating an amount of lease fees

10   for said leased medical apparatus by correlating said electronic

data on said usage status to preset lease fee systems for said

leased medical apparatus;

a billing information creating step of creating billing

information required to charge the calculated amount of lease

15   fees calculated by said calculation step to a preset payer of

said lease fees for said leased medical apparatus; and

a billing step of providing said fee payer with said created

billing information created by said billing information creating

section.

9.   (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 8,

further comprising a return step of returning status report

information such as including information on said amount of lease

fees or other information, for example, an error status for errors

5   in the medical apparatus, to said leased medical apparatus.

10. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 8,

further comprising an authentication step of permitting only a

previously authenticated person to input or change client

information on a client using said medical apparatus lease

5   system method and apparatus information on the client using said

medical apparatus lease system method.

11.   (Currently Amended) A ~~A~~ The method according to claim 8, wherein the lease fee system for said leased medical apparatus is selected from among: a program for determining an amount due depending on ~~the~~ a number of times that said leased medical

5   apparatus has been operated, a program for determining the amount due depending on ~~the~~ a number of outputs from said leased medical apparatus, a program for determining the amount due depending on an amount of time for which said leased medical apparatus has been operated or leased, and a program for determining the amount

10   due depending on ~~the~~ an amount of energy used by said leased medical apparatus.

12.   (Currently Amended) A ~~A~~ The method according to claim ~~8~~ 11, ~~further comprising~~ wherein a program is used with said programs for said lease fee system for said leased medical apparatus to prohibit an increase in ~~the~~ fees when said medical apparatus lease

5   method is tentatively used to check its operation or functioning.

13.   (Currently Amended) A ~~A~~ The method according to claim 8, further comprising ~~a computation step for~~ computing an experience on usage of said leased medical apparatus, and ~~an output step for~~ outputting the computed experience data.

Claims 14-18 (Canceled).

-6-